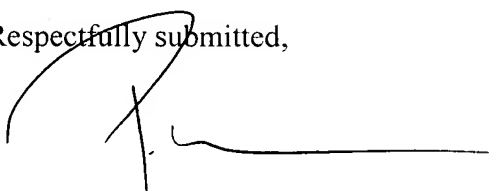


**Remarks**

Applicants are deleting Figure 1 and the text relating thereto, and have amended the specification to correct obvious typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of this Preliminary Amendment, entry of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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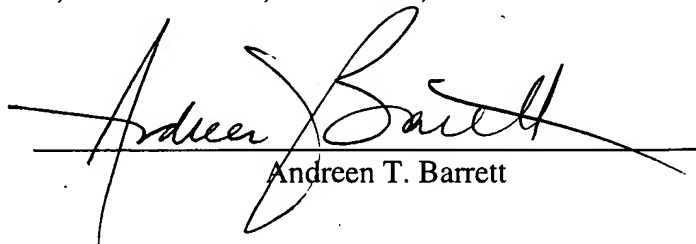
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Date: January 7, 2004

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, and any documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, January 7, 2004, as First Class Mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a), in an envelope with proper postage affixed addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Andreen T. Barrett

Date: January 7, 2004

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